

REMARKS

Claims 4, 5, 7-9, 12-14 and 16-19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4 and 12 are amended and claims 16-19 are added. Claims 4 and 12 are amended solely for clarity. Support for the subject matter of claims 16-19 can be found at least in Figs. 6 and 7 as well as at pages 15-19 of the specification. Thus, no new matter is added.

I. 35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as allegedly being indefinite. By this Amendment, claim 4 is amended responsive to the rejection.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

II. 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 4, 5, 7-9 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0114027 to Horimai in view of "New Laser Pattern Generator for DUV Using a Spatial Light Modulator," to Ljungblad et al. (hereinafter "Ljungblad"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The applied references fail to disclose or render obvious "detecting and counting the number of ON pixels or OFF pixels in each pixel block," as recited in independent claim 4 and similarly recited in independent claim 12.

The Office Action acknowledges that Horimai fails to disclose this feature. However, the Office Action alleges that Ljungblad cures this deficiency of Horimai at page 26, paragraph [0001]. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that Ljungblad is capable of addressing each individual pixel because Ljungblad discloses individual address electrodes. However, even if Ljungblad is capable of addressing each individual pixel, Ljungblad is silent regarding detecting and counting the number of ON pixels or OFF pixels in each of its pixel columns (alleged pixel block). Therefore, the applied references fail to disclose or render

obvious the above-quoted feature of independent claim 4 and the similar feature of independent claim 12.

Because the applied references fail to disclose counting the number of ON pixels or OFF pixels, the applied references are also incapable of "converting the pixels of each pixel block into a corresponding one of a plurality of predetermined conversion pixel patterns based on the counted number of ON pixels or OFF pixels," as recited in independent claim 4 and similarly recited in independent claim 12.

For at least the reasons discussed above, independent claims 4 and 12 are patentable over the combination of Horimai and Ljunbglad. Claims 5, 7-9, 13 and 14 are patentable at least for their various dependencies from the independent claims as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

III. New Claims 16-19 Define Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 16-19 are patentable at least for their dependencies from the independent claims as well as for the additional features they recite.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

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